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Director's Speaker Series

LEONARD SMITH

"The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the History of Sovereignty"

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

[To view the event recording, please click here.](#)

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Leonard Smith is Frederick B. Artz Professor of History at Oberlin College. He is the author of *The Embattled Self: French Soldiers' Testimony of the Great War* (Cornell University Press, 2007); *France and the Great War, 1914-1918* (with Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, Cambridge University Press, 2003); and *Between Mutiny and Obedience: The Case of the French Fifth Infantry Division During World War I* (Princeton University Press, 1994). He also co-edited *France at War: Vichy and the Historians* (Berg, 2000, French edition 2004).

Smith's current monograph project, *Sovereignty at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919: The 'Laboratory over a Vast Cemetery,'* is under contract to Oxford University Press. His most recent publications include "Empires at the Paris Peace Conference," in Robert Gerwarth and Erez Manela, eds., *Empires at War, 1912-1923* (Oxford University Press, 2014); and "Mutiny," in Jay Winter, ed., *Cambridge History of the First World War*, 3 vols. (Cambridge University Press, 2014). Smith is currently a visiting scholar at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University.

Abstract

This lecture will provide an introduction to Smith's monograph project on the locus and attributes of sovereignty and the peace conference that sought to close down the Great War. Smith begins at the conceptual level, but explaining sovereignty as a category of analysis. He then endeavors to show what a focus of sovereignty adds to an understanding of the historically specific international system that created the Paris Peace Conference and was created by it.



Leonard Smith
Frederick B Artz
Professor of History
Oberlin College

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